

13. Gas based Intermediate Products

- (i) Gas exploration & Production
- (ii) Gas Distribution & Production
- (iii) Power Generation
- (iv) Plastics
- (v) Yarn Raw Materials
- (vi) Fertilizers
- (vii) Methanol
- (viii) Formaldehyde & FR Resin Melamine & MF Resin
- (ix) Methyllamine, Hexamethine Tetranine, Ammonium bi-Carbonate
- (x) Nitrite Acid & Ammonium Nitrate
- (xi) Carbon Black
- (xii) Polymer Chips

14. Agro forestry

15. Horticulture

16. Mineral based

17. Floriculture

18. Agro based.

'Cash and Carry Wholesale' Trading

31. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally approved the Joint Venture between Spencer & Co., Madras and Dairy Farm International, Mauritius to start cash and carry wholesale' trading; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Spencer & Co. Madras have been granted foreign collaboration approval to undertake 'Cash and Carry Wholesale' operations in India i.e., for building a chain of large distribution infrastructure to facilitate manufacturers to cut the length of supply chain by dealing directly and efficiently with the small and dispersed community of

retailers as their customers, subject to the restrictions on imports and retail trading.

Transport Corridor Linking Mumbai with Southern Russian Port

32. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is planning to establish a transport corridor linking Mumbai with the Southern Russian port of Astrakhan to boost bilateral trade with Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Memorandum of Understandings has been signed between the two countries in this regard and if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) whether the approval of various countries through which the corridor would pass has been sought and obtained?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Government of Russian Federation have proposed an international Agreement on transit along the 'North-South' Corridor to facilitate transportation via Iran and the Caspian Sea to the Russian Federation.

(c) and (d) The draft agreement was discussed in a meeting held in Moscow on 4-5 July, 2000 where representatives of the Russian Federation, Iran, Oman and India were present. Further discussions between the concerned countries will be necessary before a final decision can be taken.

Functioning of the Patent Office

33. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "The Patent Logjam" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated 19th June, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to address the various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news-item relating to the functioning of the Patent Office of Government?